

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A drying apparatus having a front support mounting assembly, the assembly comprising:

a cabinet;

a rotatable drum, horizontally installed within said cabinet as a drying chamber for holding an object to be dried, said rotatable drum having an open end;

a front support which is an annular structure having front and back ends, wherein the back end rotatably supports the open end of said rotatable drum; and

means for fixing said front support directly to said cabinet, wherein said cabinet comprises a mounting flange for receiving said fixing means wherein said fixing means comprises:

a cabinet-fixing flange, formed at a first end, for providing a first mounting surface for coupling with said mounting flange; and

a front support-fixing flange, formed at a second end, for providing a second mounting surface for coupling with said front support, wherein said cabinet-fixing flange comprising a pair of hanging protrusions formed on a rear surface, and wherein said

mounting flange of said cabinet has a pair of hanging holes for respectively receiving said hanging protrusions.

2-3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The drying apparatus as claimed in ~~claim 3~~ claim 1, said fixing means further comprising an extension link, extending from said cabinet-fixing flange to said front support fixing flange, for compensating for a mounting offset between the first and second mounting surfaces.

5. (Original) The drying apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said cabinet-fixing flange and said front support-fixing flange are respectively connected to said extension link to form predetermined angles.

6. (Previously Presented) The drying apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the predetermined angles are complementary right angles providing a substantially parallel coupling of said front support with respect to said mounting flange.

7. (Original) The drying apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein at least one reinforcing bead is formed on said extension link of said fixing means, for supporting said front

support and reinforcing the coupling of said front support to said mounting flange of said cabinet.

8. (Original) The drying apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein a plurality of reinforcing beads are formed on said extension link of said fixing means, to be arranged in rows, for supporting said front support and reinforcing the coupling of said front support to said mounting flange of said cabinet.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) The drying apparatus as claimed in ~~claim 9~~ claim 1, wherein said pair of hanging protrusions each have a T-shaped configuration and wherein each of the hanging holes of said mounting flange is formed to have a wide top end and a narrow bottom end, so that the T-shaped hanging protrusions can be respectively inserted in the top ends to be caught in the bottom ends.

11. (Currently Amended) The drying apparatus as claimed in ~~claim 3~~ claim 1, said fixing means further comprising at least one fixing member for fixing said cabinet-fixing flange of said fixing means to said mounting flange of said cabinet via at least one set of fixing holes respectively formed in said cabinet-fixing flange and said mounting flange.

12. (Original) The drying apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein at least one spare set of fixing holes are respectively formed in said cabinet-fixing flange and said mounting flange, adjacent the one set of fixing holes, for alternatively receiving the at least one fixing member.

13. (Original) The drying apparatus as claimed in ~~claim 3~~ claim 1, said front support-fixing flange comprising a plurality of welding protrusions for being welded to said front support.

14. (Currently Amended) The drying apparatus as claimed in ~~claim 3~~ claim 1, wherein said front support-fixing flange and said front support are each provided with at least two jig holes for respectively receiving at least two jig pins to establish a fixing position of said front support with respect to the fixing means.

15. (Original) The drying apparatus as claimed in claim 14, said front support-fixing flange comprising a plurality of welding protrusions for being welded to said front support.

16. (Currently Amended) The drying apparatus as claimed in ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein said fixing means is provided at a plurality of mounting positions on said mounting flange of said cabinet.

17. (Previously Presented) The drying apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein the plurality of mounting positions are symmetrically arranged.

18. (Original) The drying apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said front support is provided with four corner flanges.

19. (Original) The drying apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the plurality of mounting positions correspond to the four corner flanges of said front support.

20. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A drying apparatus having a front support mounting assembly, comprising:

a cabinet;

a rotatable drum horizontally installed within said cabinet as a drying chamber for holding an object to be dried, said rotatable drum having an open end;

a front support for rotatably supporting the open end of said rotatable drum; and

a plurality of fixing brackets for fixing said front support directly to said cabinet, wherein said cabinet has a forward edge bent to form a mounting flange for receiving at least one of said plurality of fixing brackets, and the at least one of said plurality of brackets comprises:

a cabinet-fixing flange, formed at a first end, for providing a first mounting surface for coupling with said mounting flange; and

a front support-fixing flange, formed at a second end, for providing a second mounting surface for coupling with said front support.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Withdrawn) The drying apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein the forward edge of said cabinet is bent inwardly.

23. (Canceled).

24. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The drying apparatus as claimed in ~~claim 21~~ claim 20, further comprising:

a front cabinet cover, separable with respect to said cabinet, that can be mounted to the mounting flange of said cabinet after said front support is fixed to said cabinet.

25. (Withdrawn) The drying apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein, when said front cabinet cover is mounted to the mounting flange, said front support is disposed between said rotatable drum and said front cabinet cover.

26. (Withdrawn) The drying apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein said front support remains fixed to said cabinet irrespective of said front cabinet cover being mounted to said cabinet.

27. (Withdrawn) The drying apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein said plurality of fixing brackets maintains a consistent distance between opposing surfaces of the drum and the front support.

28. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A drying apparatus having a front support mounting assembly, the assembly comprising:

a cabinet having a forward edge formed as a mounting flange;

a rotatable drum, horizontally installed within said cabinet as a drying chamber for holding an object to be dried, said rotatable drum having an open end;

a front support for rotatably supporting the open end of said rotatable drum; and

means for fixing said front support directly to the mounting flange of said cabinet, wherein said fixing means is a plurality of brackets, and each of said plurality of brackets comprises:

a cabinet-fixing flange, formed at a first end, for providing a first mounting surface for coupling with said mounting flange; and

a front support-fixing flange, formed at a second end, for providing a second mounting surface for coupling with said front support.

29-30. (Canceled).

31. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The drying apparatus as claimed in ~~claim 29~~ claim 28, wherein the forward edge of said cabinet is bent inwardly from opposing sides of said cabinet, to form the mounting flange on each opposing side, and wherein the mounting flange of each opposing side receives at least one of said plurality of brackets.